

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 SOE-02
DODE-00 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 PA-01 ICA-11 PM-05
/127 W

-----022186 182131Z /73

P 181841Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7578
INFO SUDOE WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 3986

VIENNA FOR USIAEA

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENGR, BR
SUBJ: NUCLEAR ISSUE--BRAZILIAN PRESS COMMENT ON URENCO COMPROMISE
ATTEMPT

REF: (A) BRASILIA 3453, (B) LONDON 7553 (NOTAL)

1. BRAZILIAN PRESS COMMENT ON THE EFFORT OF THE URENCO PARTNERS
TO REACH A COMPROMISE AGREEMENT OVER THE PAST TWO WEEKS
HAS DIFFERED IN ITS REPORTING OF THE DETAILS OF THE COMPROMISE
EFFORT. ACCORDING TO A JORNAL DO BRASIL ARTICLE ON 11 MAY,
THE DUTCH HAD PROPOSED A COMPROMISE BASED ON BRAZILIAN DEFERRAL
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OF REPROCESSING UNTIL AN AGREED INTERNATIONAL
PLUTONIUM STORAGE REGIME WAS ESTABLISHED. THE ARTICLE ASSERTS
THAT THE BRITISH HAD REPLIED FAVORABLY AND THAT THE FRG
WAS EXPECTED TO DO THE SAME. THE ARTICLE, DATED THE HAGUE,
CITED AFP AND THE ROTTERDAM NEWSPAPER
NRS-HANDELSBLAD AS ITS SOURCES.

2. ON 13 MAY, THE JORNAL DO BRASIL CARRIED AN ARTICLE BY ROBERT EVANS, DATELINED LONDON, WHICH REPORTED ON THE FINANCIAL TIMES ARTICLE (REFTEL B). IT CLAIMS THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD NOT ACCEPTED THE DUTCH PROPOSAL AND HAD COUNTER-PROPOSED A URENCO-SUPERVISED PLUTONIUM STORAGE REGIME PENDING AN INTERNATIONALLY AGREED REGIME AND WITHOUT BRAZILIAN DEFERRAL OF REPROCESSING. AN ARTICLE FROM THE ESTADO DE SAO PAULO'S CORRESPONDENT IN BONN ON 17 MAY REPORTED THAT THE FRG HAD REPLIED TO THE DUTCH PROPOSAL, BUT THAT NO INFORMATION ON THE NATURE OF THE REPLY WAS AVAILABLE, OTHER THAN THE FRG COMMENT THAT THEIR POSITION HAD NOT CHANGED. THE ARTICLE NOTED THE DUTCH POSITION THAT THEIR PROPOSAL WOULD NOT CONSTITUTE A CHANGE IN THE TERMS OF THE BRAZIL-URENCO AGREEMENT.

3. COMMENT: IT IS READILY APPARENT THAT FOR URENCO TO ESTABLISH DEFERRAL OF REPROCESSING AS A CONDITION OF FUEL SUPPLY TO BRAZIL WOULD BE HIGHLY BENEFICIAL TO USG EFFORTS TO OBTAIN DEFERRAL OF REPROCESSING BY BRAZIL. ON THE OTHER HAND, A URENCO SUPERVISED PLUTONIUM STORAGE REGIME WITHOUT DEFERRAL OF REPROCESSING WOULD BE NO HELP AT ALL. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO OBTAIN A CLARIFICATION OF THE URENCO COMPROMISE EFFORT PRIOR TO THE 12-13 JUNE VISIT OF AMBASSADOR SMITH TO BRASILIA.
END COMMENT.
JOHNSON

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NNN

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